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Review Staff: 76/0012/2  
7 January 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: HSC and the Disposition of Records

1. Jackie Hess phoned me today to talk about disposition of records. She is very negative about the National Archives [redacted]

[redacted] I told her that we had had a somewhat different reaction and were rather confident that we could be assured of secure, separate physical storage and adequate controls over access to the information.

2. Ms. Hess was curious about what we were doing and I told her that we had a committee trying to formulate a position. At present alternative courses included storage at the National Archives, the NSA (as Mr. Pike had done with the Pueblo hearing records), and the NSC taking control and making the records available to Congress. Having already expressed her displeasure with the Archives, Ms. Hess said she was personally opposed to both NSA and NSC storage.

3. I said that when we have worked up draft proposals on these various courses, we planned to deliver them to the White House for a decision and for discussions between the White House and the select committees on how to handle it. She felt that this was appropriate.

4. I asked for an estimate of the linear feet of material that she thought the HSC would have to store. She asked if I was referring to both classified and unclassified material, saying that there was some of both. Among the materials held by the SSC are Executive Session transcripts, all stamped Top Secret, of which there are 15 to 18 copies per session; complete copies of the Rockefeller Commission files; 5 copies each of the various briefing books prepared for the members, running from 1 to 50 pages per copy; and the large volume of material supplied by the

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various organizations being investigated.

5. I told Ms. Hess that some of the agencies felt that materials supplied by them were "on loan." I expressed the opinion that there was not much of this sort of material from the CIA and that there would probably be a problem with only a handful of the material. She said that she felt we really had more paper than that that had been transmitted as being on loan. She was not at all sure that the House Committee would honor the claim that the material was on loan and said she was unaware of any agreement that material would be placed on this basis. She said that following the agreement between the President and Mr. Pike some of the agencies had begun to label their material as being on loan, but she did not know that this had any binding status so far as the House Select Committee is concerned. She said that hopefully the White House would recognize the practicalities of this matter. I told her I could not speak for the final position but that personally, if we could insure proper storage, control of access and control of ultimate declassification, I could not see any unsurmountable problems. We left it at that.

6. Ms. Hess will try to tell me by COB today what her volume of material will be.

S. D. Breckinridge  
Chief, Review Staff

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